

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP03/02178.

Please add new claims 10-22 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (new): A lightweight valve comprising:

- a valve body including a valve stem and a valve cone;
- a valve disk cover compression welded to the valve cone, a cavity being disposed between the valve cone and the valve disk cover; and
- a support structure disposed in the cavity and bracing the valve disk cover against the valve stem.

Claim 11 (new): The lightweight valve as recited in claim 10, wherein the lightweight valve is a combustion engine valve.

Claim 12 (new): The lightweight valve as recited in claim 10, wherein the valve body is integrally formed as a single part.

Claim 13 (new): The lightweight valve as recited in claim 10, further comprising a cooling medium disposed in the cavity.

Claim 14 (new): The lightweight valve as recited in claim 13, wherein the cooling medium includes sodium.

Claim 15 (new): The lightweight valve as recited in claim 10, wherein the cavity extends into the valve stem.

Claim 16 (new): A method for making a lightweight valve, the method comprising:
providing a valve body blank including a valve stem and a partially hollow valve cone;
providing a valve disk cover blank; and
welding the valve body blank to the valve disk cover blank using compression connection welding.

Claim 17 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the compression connection welding includes friction welding.

Claim 18 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the compression connection welding includes resistance compression welding.

Claim 19 (new): The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the resistance compression welding includes at least one of projection welding and capacitor discharge welding.

Claim 20 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the partially hollow valve cone includes an interior space and a partially conically shaped wall and the valve disk cover blank has a joining area having an edge, and wherein the welding includes welding the edge to the partially conically shaped wall.

Claim 21 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the valve disk cover blank includes a partially truncated cone-shaped boundary area and the valve body blank includes an interior space delimited by a linear edge, and wherein the welding includes welding the boundary area to the linear edge.

Claim 22 (new): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the lightweight valve is a combustion engine valve.